

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 AF-10
ARA-14 OIC-02 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
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R 232135Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1987
INFO USDA/WASHDC
ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

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USOECD

USEEC

USDA FOR WITCHER, OYLOE AND ASST SEC HATHAWAY; STATE
FOR MCLEAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR OECD
SUBJ: COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, 64TH SESSION,
17-19 MAY 1978

SUMMARY. 1979 WORK PLAN PRIORITIES INCLUDE TRADITIONAL
ANNUAL POLICY REVIEWS AND OUTLOOK WORK, ISSUES FACING
FOOD ECONOMIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND THE FOOD CHAIN
WITH EMPHASIS ON PRICE FORMULATION. EC NOT INTERESTED
IN CAP BEING EXAMINED BY OECD. PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE
REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

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APPLICATION OF SO. AFRICA TO THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
SCHEME REJECTED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. NEW GERMAN
POSITION ON COOPERATIVE RESEARCH ON PRODUCTION AND
PRESERVATION MAY BREAK IMPASSE TO STARTING PROJECT.
DISCUSSIONS AT JUNE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE
AGRICULTURE. DEHEEGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AGRICULTURAL
DIRECTORATE RETIRES, VIATTE NAMED TO FILL POSITION.

NEXT COMM FOR AGR MEETING WEEK OF 16 OCT 78. END
SUMMARY.

1. OFFICERS ELECTED WERE E.J. LEROUX (CANADA), CHAIRMAN
AND M.A. DEBOUVERIE (BELGIUM) VICE-CHAIRMAN. SIGNIFI-
CANT THAT LEROUX IS FIRST NON-EUROPEAN CHAIRMAN OF THIS
COMMITTEE. AGDIR SIMANTOV NOTED THAT COMMITTEE MAY WANT
TO ELECT ANOTHER VICE-CHAIRMAN LATER IN THE YEAR.

2. NEW AGRICULTURAL CONSUL IN SPANISH PERMANENT
DELEGATION IS M.A. FERNANDEZ REPLACING R. ESTERUELAS.
FERNANDEZ WAS FORMERLY, SEVERAL YEARS AGO, SPANISH
AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO.

3. 1979 PROGRAM OF WORK RECEIVED PROLONGED HIGH
QUALITY DISCUSSION. DELEGATES GENERALLY AGREED THAT
THE WORK PLAN WAS WELL BALANCED. DELEGATES AGREED
THAT TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES OF ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL
POLICY REVIEW, IN-DEPTH COUNTRY AGRICULTURAL POLICY
EXAMINATION SERIES, THE OCCASIONAL STUDIES ON TOPICAL
SUBJECTS AND THE COMMODITY OUTLOOK WORK WERE IMPORTANT,
HIGH PRIORITY WORK ITEMS. OF THE NEW TOPICS PROPOSED,
HIGH PRIORITY WAS GIVEN TO (1) ISSUES FACING THE FOOD
ECONOMIES OF OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES AND (2) THE FOOD
CHAIN WITH EMPHASIS ON PRICE FORMULATION.

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SUMMARY OF WP1 MEETING DISCUSSION ON ISSUES
FACING FOOD ECONOMIES WAS DISCUSSED WITH CONCLUSION
THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD PREPARE NOTE FOR NEXT WP1
MEETING ON GENERAL CONCEPT OF FOOD POLICY INDICATING
MAIN ELEMENTS BEING CONSIDERED IN MEMBER COUNTRIES.
OUTCOME OF NEXT WP1 MEETING WILL GUIDE FURTHER WORK.

DELEGATES AGREED THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE BEEF
CHAIN SHOULD BE DISSOLVED AND THAT A NEW AD HOC COM-
MITTEE SHOULD BE CREATED TO CARRY OUT WORK ON AGRO-
FOOD CHAINS WITH EMPHASIS ON PRICE FORMULATION AND
IMPROVEMENT OF MARKET EFFICIENCY.

OF LOWER PRIORITY AND NEEDING MORE TIME TO DEVELOP
WERE THE ITEMS ON (1) AGRICULTURAL POLICY ACTION
FOR THE 1980'S AND (2) ENERGY USE IN AGRICULTURE.
CANADA SUPPORTED BY U.S. SUGGESTED THE NEXT IN-DEPTH
COUNTRY POLICY EXAMINATION SHOULD BE ON THE EC.
(STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED ON U.S. AND CANADA
WITH ONE ON GREECE UNDERWAY.) EC REPLY WAS THAT THE
PURPOSE OF THESE STUDIES IS TO EXPLAIN MAJOR BASIC
SHIFTS IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY AND NONE HAS TAKEN PLACE

WITH REGARD TO THE EC COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.
QUOTE. WHAT PURPOSE IS SERVED BY ONCE AGAIN EXPLAINING

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A LEVY? UNQUOTE.

COMMENT. CONSIDERING APPARENT PRESENT DISENCHANTMENT
OF GERMANY AND U.K. WITH CAP, MIGHT IT BE POSSIBLE TO
PERSUADE ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES TO VOLUNTEER (OR
ACQUIESCE) FOR THE NEXT STUDY? IF SO, IT WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO REVEAL SOME OF THE MAJOR DOMESTIC
IMPACTS OF THE CAP ON THE COUNTRY STUDIED.
END COMMENT.

4. PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE REPORT AND RECOMMENDA-
TIONS WERE DISCUSSED AND REFERRED TO NATIONAL AUTHORI-
TIES FOR WRITTEN COMMENT TO SECRETARIAT WITHIN ONE
MONTH. SEE SEPARATE CABLE PARIS 16253 ON SUBJECT FOR
DETAIL AND REQUESTED ACTION.

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5. NORWAY, JOINED BY DENMARK, SWEDEN, AND YUGOSLAVIA, OPPOSED ADMISSION OF SO. AFRICA TO THE OECD FRUIT AND VEG. SCHEME ON POLITICAL GROUNDS EVEN THOUGH SO. AFRICA MEETS TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION. SEE SEPARATE CABLE PARIS 16104 FOR DETAIL.

6. GERMANY ALTERED POSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION. NEW GERMAN PROPOSAL MAY PROVIDE BASIS FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE PROJECT. SEE SEPARATE CABLE PARIS 16251 FOR DETAIL AND REQUESTED ACTION.

7. DELEGATES APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL FOR DERESTRICTION FOR SALE THE FOLLOWING: (A) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL POLICY (AGR(78)7), (B) FORECASTS OF THE DAIRY AND BEEF SITUATION IN 1979 AND 1982 (AGR(78)8), (C) PRODUCTION AND MARKETING STRUCTURES FOR APPLES IN SPAIN (AGR(77)14) AND GERMANY (AGR(77)38), (D) STRUCTURE, PERFORMANCE AND PROSPECTS OF THE BEEF CHAIN (DAA/1526 WITH ADDENDUM AND CORRIG).

8. DELEGATES APPROVED FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL: (A) DRAFT DECISION TO REVISE CERTAIN STANDARDS UNDER THE FRUIT AND VEG. SCHEME (AGR(78)17), (B) PARTICIPATION OF U.S. (AGR(78)13) AND CANADA (AGR(78)14) IN THE FRUIT AND VEG. SCHEME UNDER 5-YEAR DEROGATIONS, ADMISSION OF TUNISIA TO THE SEED SCHEME (AGR(78)18).

9. DELEGATES NOTED: (A) REPORT OF WP4 (MEAT)(AGR(78)15 EXPRESSED INTEREST IN FURTHER WORK OF THIS PARTY PARTICULARLY ON DEMAND FOR MEAT, AND DISCUSSED POSSIBLE WIDER USE OF THE WP4 REPORTS, (B) STUDY ON AGRICULTURAL

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SITUATION IN CHINA, AGREED TO INCLUDE IT AS A COUNTRY NOTE IN THE 1978 POLICY REVIEW, AND SUGGESTED CONTINUATION OF THE WORK, (C) STATEMENT BY SECRETARIAT ON FORTHCOMING MEETING OF WFC AND ON CURRENT CEREALS NEGOTIATIONS, (D) STATEMENT BY GATT OBSERVER ON MTN WHO EXPLAINED OVER 100 BILATERALS ARE UNDERWAY AND THAT THE MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATION IS ON BOTH MEASURES INCLUDING SAFEGUARDS, SUBSIDIES AND STANDARDS, AND PRODUCTS SUCH AS BEEF AND DAIRY; BUT LEGAL PROBLEMS ARE LOOMING LARGER AS NEGOTIATIONS INTENSIFY,

(E) REPORT ON RECENT DAC MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
IN A BASIC NEEDS PERSPECTIVE, (F) REPORT OF THE
SEVENTH WORKING CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF AGRI-
CULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES (AGR(77)47), (G)
CONCLUSIONS OF EXPERTS MEETINGS ON EVALUATION OF
MULTIPURPOSE HYDRAULIC PROJECTS (TECO(78)3/AGR(78)11/
ENV(78)22), UTILIZATION OF COMPUTERS IN AGRICULTURE
(TCO(78)4/AGR(78)16) AND JOINT ACTIVITY ON DEVELOPMENT
OF BEEF PRODUCTION, CONCLUSIONS OF THE 2ND MEETING
ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF PRODUCTION SYSTEMS (TECO(78)10/
AGR(78)19.

10. FINLAND COMMENTED TO COMMITTEE THAT SECRETARIAT
DOCUMENT CES(78)46 (HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY
MAX WITCHER) CONTAINED INPARA. 14 A STATEMENT ON
AGRICULTURE THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE JUNE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS. IN ADDITION THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
WILL DISCUSS NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES OF WHICH AGRICULTURE
IS A PART PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO FOOD SECURITY.
COMMENT. USDA SHOULD REVIEW COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AGENDA DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO THE JUNE MEETING AND FORWARD
COMMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL PORTION TO STATE. END COMMENT.

11. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE
DEHEEGER ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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AFTER 25 YEARS' SERVICE AT OECD. GERARD VIATTE, PRESENT DIRECTOR OF THE MARKETING AND TRADE DIVISION, WILL BECOME DEPUTY DIRECTOR UNDER SIMANTOV. OPEN POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR VIATTE POSITION BEING HAND-CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY WITCHER.

12. COMMENT. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LEROUX DID EXCELLENT JOB OF CONDUCTING MEETING. POSSIBLE TOPICS TO DISCUSS IN FUTURE COMM FOR AGR MEETINGS INCLUDE (A) GENERAL QUESTION OF GUIDELINES FOR DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS (THIS QUESTION CAME UP SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO THREE DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE FEB AG MINISTERIAL MEETING AND IS DETAILED IN A SEPARATE CABLE PARIS 16254) (B) QUESTION OF WHETHER PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL DIRECTORATE AND BALANCE OF WORKING PARTIES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES AND EXPERT GROUPS IS MOST UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROPRIATE FOR PRESENT DAY OECD MISSION IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, AND (C) QUESTION OF WHETHER COMM FOR AGR ROLE SHOULD REMAIN MAINLY REACTIVE OR BECOME MORE INITIATIVE. WP3(DAIRY) MEETING SCHEDULED ON 3-4 JUL 78 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL DAIRY CONGRESS MEETING TO ALLOW FOR PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS IN BOTH ON ONE TRIP. U.S. SHOULD MAKE CONCERTED EFFORT TO FIND ONE OR MORE OUTSTANDING CANDIDATES FOR THE VIATTE POSITION.

13. NEXT COMM FOR AGR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF 16 OCT 78. EXACT DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER. CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER ASSOCIATION IS EXPECTED ON THE EVE BEFORE THE MEETING.
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Message Attributes

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